

Swansea University

# Hiking Club

Newsletter – January 2009

Welcome back to Swansea. I hope everyone had a good break over Christmas and is enjoying the snow now :D I know I have been. If you have just joined the club, welcome, and I hope you have an enjoyable time hiking with us.

In this issue of the newsletter:

- Stand for a position on the **committee** for next year. We have positions for all of you whatever your abilities and skills. Find out more on page 2
- Tales from our Summer 2008 trip to the **Lake District** and to the **Peak District** in the autumn.
- An invitation to join us in **Snowdonia** at the beginning of Easter. It should be fabulous!
- Find out what went on at the **Christmas dinner** too.



This term's highlights include the Ystradfellte Waterfall Walk (see the Sept 08 newsletter for details), St David's in Pembrokeshire and the stunning Glamorgan Heritage Coast

Happy Hiking everyone.

Martin Lilley

# AGM

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 09 – 6pm

Vote for your committee or stand for a position!

**Chairman:** The job of the chairman is to oversee the general running of the club. They will chair regular weekly meetings as well as keep other committee members in check! They will inevitably have to do anything that doesn't come under anyone else's job description...

**Vice-chairman:** The vice-chair looks after the club kit – providing the correct maps, shelters and first aid kits for every walk. Also they look after the clubs transport, booking coaches or minibuses as required.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer looks after the clubs finances. It's a tight budget, so they must make sure we can afford to do the things we said we would. Perhaps also make sure the vice-chair doesn't spend too much on shiny new maps!

**Secretary:** The secretary mainly takes and records the minutes of every committee meeting but also books accommodation for weekends away and other trips. They have the rather important task of making sure the pub at the end of each walk is open and willing to serve thirsty hikers!

**Social Secretary:** The social secretary thinks up and then runs the hiking clubs fantastic social calendar. They have the job of organising the most exciting event of the year: the Christmas Dinner!

**Publicity Secretary:** The publicity secretary has the duty of making sure all the club members know what is going on. They send weekly emails detailing the next walk/social. Also they might like to advertise the club!

**Webmaster:** The webmaster, rather obviously, looks after the club's website, keeping it up-to-date with up-coming events and photographs of the clubs activities.

## Walks Calendar

### **Spring Term**

February 2009

- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> - [Usk Reservoir](#) (*Grade A,1*)
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - [Pen Allt Mawr](#) (*Grade B,3*) **New walk**
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> - [Three Cliffs Bay and Pub late Lunch - New Committee Walk](#) (*Grade A,1*)

March 2009

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> - [Preseli Hills - Pembrokeshire](#) (*Grade B,2*)
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> - [Caerphilly Castle](#) (*Grade A,1*)
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - [Glamorgan Heritage Coast](#) (*Grade B,1*)
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> -> Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - [Snowdonia Easter Trip](#) (*Grade B,3*)



### **Summer Term**

April 2009

- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - [Rhossili -> Swansea, Sponsored Walk](#) (*Grade C,2*) **Provisional**
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> - [St David's and the Pembrokeshire Coast](#) (*Grade A,1*)

May 2009

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> - [Bannau Sir Gaer](#) (*Grade C,3*)
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> - [Ystradfellte Waterfalls Walk](#) (*Grade B,2*)

June 2009

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> -> Friday 12<sup>th</sup> - [Summer Trip to Dartmoor and South Devon Coast](#) (*Grade B,2*)

# This Easter, we are off to *Snowdonia!*



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
(as soon as term finishes for Easter)

5 days walking

All transport costs

5 nights accommodation

For around £50-55

Snowdonia offers so many possibilities for walking - from lake and valley walks surrounded by high peaks to climbing the highest mountain in England and Wales – Snowdon (1085m).

We will be offering a variety of grades of walks (A-C) including easier options and the chance to go scrambling too if you would like!

A rest day will give the opportunity to explore Caernarfon with its castle, Betws-y-Coed's forests and shops or part of Anglesey.

Accommodation is in a Mountaineering centre with bunk-beds, hot showers, a fitted kitchen and drying room. Sleeping-bags required.

We will be taking deposits from the AGM onwards.

<http://www.hiking.org.uk/gallery/snowdonia>

## Summer Trip to the Lake District (8th-13th June '08)

Last Summer after our exams were over we went on a 6 day trip to the Lake District (or Lakes for short). This beautiful and popular part of NW England has a unique landscape comprising of lakes, valleys and mountains. Naturally as a hiking club our walks in this environment were mostly steep ones!

We left Swansea on Sunday morning and started our long drive northwards. To pass the time on the way some of us played the game “Tasty Lorry” with varying degrees of success. After some hours with well deserved breaks in-between the views dramatically changed; we had entered the Lake District. We were staying in the north west area of this huge national park near Cockermouth, in a camping barn called Swallow Barn. This is near the beautiful area Loweswater where some of us got our first taste of the Lakes taking a stroll around it that evening in the setting sun.

The next morning we started by going to the Newlands Fells, climbing the peaks of Robinson, Dale Head and Catbells. The climbs were long and steep but the views were magnificent. Hills were green with some bare rock while the waters below were very calm and blue. We finished by walking down between the valleys passing the typical dry stone walls and hardy sheep. This was a perfect introduction to the Lakes.

On Tuesday we needed a bit of a rest so we had our only flat walk. We started in Keswick and walked around the nearby Derwentwater. There were many geese on the water, much stone skipping by some of the hikers, and we even saw a “chav” duck with ten ducklings. We had lunch by a waterfall and after this some people resorted to dragon stealing, (Thom's Spongebob had to be safely secured). On our way back we made our way passed the Pencil factory and into the charming town of Keswick. This is a perfect place for hikers with many walking shops and a most importantly a big old fashioned sweets shop. We stopped here and bought books, booze and a toy sword for poking.

On Wednesday we went up Blencathra, a steep but short walk that included some fun scrambling to the summit! The great feeling and the views of being so high up were worth it. It was then all downhill as we walked (or slid) towards the pub.

On Thursday we started at Honister Slate Mine. Posing some time later holding pieces of slate with our names on, we then walked up Haystacks, and moved onto even higher, steeper peaks. We had a rare clear view of Scotland, and ended in the village of Buttermere.

When not hiking we passed our time in the camping barn watching swallows, playing poker and keeping track of funny quotes. These included some chav bashing, and plenty from one who was getting rather talkative while drinking their stale fish cider – unnamed but revered!.

On Friday we ended this fantastic trip with one short walk from Grasmere to Ambleside, then unfortunately we had to head home.

Our summer trip this year is Dartmoor and the South Devon Coast, 8th-12th June.

Katherine Hooper

## Christmas Dinner 2008

The main social of the winter term is the Christmas dinner social. This year the Hiking Club organised a lovely do in the Oxwich Bay Hotel. We were accompanied by SSWIGS (Swansea Students in

Guides and Scouts) and the Mountaineering Club (they go rock climbing). As I'm sure you can imagine, a small gathering of 100 merry students provided much entertainment and couldn't possibly be done justice in this space I have available, especially as I'm an engineer not a poet!



The party atmosphere kicked off in JC's before we headed to the hotel by coaches, with everyone enjoying seeing a new

(clean) side to their friends.... Party hats and crackers were of course a must over the provided wine (see we can be sophisticated) and the food was lovely. If you know me, you'd know I enjoy my food and especially the dessert :) We partied long into the evening with many a silly dance and photograph to be had, which I couldn't possibly include here, well maybe one or two. Then it was time to go, until next time!



Of course, I have heard plans for paintball social so I might have to revise my favourite social list, then there is the pancake social with sugar highs....

Hope to see you walking soon, Rhodri.

## The Peak District – 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October 2008

One of the best weekend away trips of the Hiking club this year so far was our visit to the Peak District. After a few drinks in JC's we all piled into the minibus and set off on our way north.



Upon arrival at the accommodation, the look on our faces was one of interest. Unlike the usual accommodation we stay in that consists of beds, a kitchen



and a bathroom, this one was different. Everywhere you looked there was something of interest. It was certainly the quirkiest bunkhouse we have stayed in so far.



The weekend consisted of numerous ghost stories being swapped about the spookiness of the Caving club cottage. This was aided by the fact we had to go outside to use the toilet, even in the dark! But all that just



added to the atmosphere of the weekend.

Of course, the strange yet wonderful accommodation wasn't the only bonus of our weekend. It was topped off by the fact that both the walks were stunning.



The first day we took a walk along the scenic ridges of Roaches where you could see for

miles around. The weather held out for most but by the end of it we were certainly ready for a night in the pub! On the second day we took a much more relaxed walk along a river which



involved feeding ducks, exploring caves and generally just taking in the picturesque surroundings. All this added to drinking in the pub and bunkhouse on an evening made for an amazing weekend which was a great

opportunity to get to know club members more and definitely one I would do again!

## Club information

### **Sign Ups**

JC's bar (Coffee shop side)

- Wednesday 12:30 - 13:30
- Friday 12:30 -13:30

The first few hikes of the term tend to be very busy so sign up early.

### **Coach Pick-ups**

On a Sunday Morning:

- Uplands (outside Spar shop) 9am
- Sketty Cross (by request in advance)
- Student Village (Bus stop at bottom of village on main road) 9:05am
- Campus (Fulton House) 9:15am

We normally arrive back in Swansea around 18:30, but may be later, particularly on weekends away.

### **Walk Equipment**

Please refer to the Equipment and Safety Rules or the equipment page on the website for information on what you should wear and take with you on walks. Jeans and Trainers are not allowed.

If you are unsuitably equipped, you will not be allowed to walk for the safety of the group.

If you are unsure of what you should bring contact the committee.

### **Web Site Info**

For the most up to date info on all the Club's activities and contact details for the committee.

[www.hiking.org.uk](http://www.hiking.org.uk)

*Katherine*, Webmaster

